

Haiti Service Earns Legion of Merit for North Carolina ARNG Master Sergeant

MSG J. J. Colimon, a member of the North Carolina National Guard, has been awarded the Legion of Merit for his service in Haiti. Colimon was there as the NCOIC, U4 transportation, at United Nations Headquarters in Port-Au-Prince.



MSG Jeffrey J. Colimon

Colimon spent the majority of his time as Operations NCO for elections operations. He planned the logistics and transportation support of five territorial elections. He also served as movement control NCOIC and military liaison at the Haitian Electoral Council.

Although born in Chicago of Haitian parents, he returned to Haiti at the age of four and stayed through high school. His knowledge of the culture and traditions of Haiti and the ties he had there stood him in good stead for his military mission.

During the award ceremony, he stated the award was indicative of the Total Army concept at work, which enabled a Reserve Component soldier to be mobilized, put

in a position of great responsibility and achieve notable results.

"I hope that our effort in Haiti will bring about a true democracy and the Haitian people can rebuild their country and become a prosperous nation," Colimon said.

His Legion of Merit citation reads:

"For exceptionally meritorious service from 21 February 1995 to 8 February 1996, while serving as the U4 Transportation Noncommissioned Officer in Charge for the Headquarters, United Nations Mission in Haiti Transportation Division. He planned and executed the redeployment of 6,000 Multi-National personnel and executed the receipt, assembly, and distribution of over 25 million ballots during five Haitian democratic elections. The superb results he attained in executing this unprecedented assignment have given the people of Haiti a historic opportunity for successful democratic self-government and favorably impacted on regional stability. The distinctive accomplishments of Master Sergeant Colimon reflect great credit on him and the United States Army."

Colimon is currently serving on an AGR tour as the ARNG Ops/Tng NCO DRCS, Ft. Campbell, KY. He has been selected to attend the resident Sergeants Major Course, Class 47. ■

SGM Carol G. Bennett, Senior Army NG Enlisted Advisor, FORSCOM, Ft. McPherson, GA

NATO Recognizes Outstanding NCOs in Army and Air Force National Guard

Three members of the National Guard shared a historic moment in the sun at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, March 6. The Army Guard's two best soldiers and the Air Guard's top airman for 1995 were given diplomatic recognition by Robert Hunter, the United States' ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The Army Guard's SFC Michael Stafford, New Castle, IN, and SGT Allen Thompson, Fromberg, MT, along with the Air Guard's SSG Claudine Jaramillo, Las Cruces, NM, also received a standing ovation from 22 National Guard generals attending a State Partnership Program at NATO.

It was the first time the National Guard's top enlisted people have ever been recognized at the diplomatic level, said Army National Guard CSM Larry Pence. The top enlisted Active Army and Air Force have never been so honored, Pence said.

Stafford, a full-time Indiana Guardsman, was the Army Guard's NCO of the Year and Thompson, of the Montana Army Guard, was Soldier of the Year. Jaramillo, from the

New Mexico Air Guard, is the reigning Airman of the Year. She is also one of the active Air Force's top 12 enlisted people for 1995.

The State Partnership Program's aim is to help former communist countries of Eastern Europe learn the principles of democracy that those nations haven't known in centuries. ■

*Joint Endeavor National Guard Bureau
Brussels, Belgium*

Transportation Command NCO of Year Named

SFC Jimmie Harris was chosen as the 143rd Transportation Command NCO of the Year during a ceremony at the 228th Transportation Co on February 4. The award and an Army Commendation Medal were presented by BG Michael T. Gaw, commander of the 143rd TRANSCOM.

"It's an honor to have been selected for this award out of 41 competing units and to have Brigadier General Gaw here to present it to me," the Palatka, FL, native said.

Harris has been in the Army for 16 years, including nine

years on active duty. He works in the motor section as the motor sergeant at the 228th Transportation Co during Reserve duty weekends. As a civilian, he is an associate for a plumbing distributor in Palatka.



SFC Harris, wife Barbara and son Jimmie Jr.

In March, he competed in the 1st Army's Reserve NCO competition in Pittsburgh. To prepare for the two competitions, Harris said he studied military publications and civilian periodicals. Also, he got help from his wife, Barbara, who relieved him of some of his family duties. ■

*SPC Marie Bushey and SFC Tom Rusk
143rd Transportation Command PAO, Orlando, FL*

Special Forces and Operations Commands Name Retention NCO of the Year for FY 95

SFC Arthur Palmer, HHC 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), has been selected as the United States Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) and United States Army Special Operations Command Retention NCO of the Year for FY 95. His outstanding performance as the 3rd SFG(A) Retention NCOIC was responsible for the Group achieving 143% of its mission for the year and resulted in the units receiving the Command's Retention Award. ■



SFC Arthur Palmer

*CSM Michael W. Jefferson, Headquarters, 3rd Special Forces Group
(Airborne), Ft. Bragg, NC*

Ft. Lee Names NCO of the Year

SGT Kollin L. Taylor, Ft. Lee's 1995 NCO of the year thought about becoming a pilot and joining the Air Force. "But when I got to the recruiting station, I decided to join the Army. Three years later I can say that I made the right decision."

The Jamaica native is a medical NCO working in the Ears, Nose and Throat (ENT) Clinic. Some of his work includes performing physicals, assisting ENT doctors, doing ear cleanings and assisting doctors with minor surgical procedures.

The Ft. Lee board was the 14th board he's competed in. "When I first started competing at boards, I did it to earn promotions as fast as possible," Taylor said. He's now studying for board number 15 — the North Atlantic Health Service Support Area competition at Ft. Knox, KY. After Ft. Knox, he plans to appear before promotion board number 16. "After that, I think I'll give a rest."

Taylor also attends Saint Leo College where he is working on his bachelor's degree in business. ■

*SSG Jim Bolton, PAO, U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command
and Ft. Lee, Ft. Lee, VA*

Army Institute for Professional Development Selects 1996 DETC Outstanding Graduate

SFC Marion L. Turner, NCOIC for Directorate of Flight Operations at Redstone Arsenal Army Airfield, AL, has been selected as the Army Institute for Professional Development (AIPD) 1996 outstanding graduate. Turner was selected from among more than 210,000 students in the Army Correspondence Course Program.

Turner's thirst for knowledge led him to complete more than 800 study hours in 19 months with AIPD. The Army has to depend upon fewer soldiers to accomplish a mission that is broader than ever and Turner is an outstanding example of the motivated, multi-faceted soldier needed to lead the Army into the 21st century.

In his present assignment he provides direct leadership and guidance to 19 soldiers with three different Military Occupational Specialties.

Through his broad knowledge gained through completing a diversity of AIPD distance education courses, Turner has earned the respect and confidence of his superiors and subordinates alike.

"The knowledge I have obtained from the AIPD has helped me to stay current in the ever-changing Army, while maintaining the diversity to train and mentor soldiers of different occupational specialties." ■

*The Army Institute for Professional Development,
U.S. Army Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal, AL*



SFC Marion L. Turner